

REMARKS

Applicant hereby presents this response in coordination with an RCE. Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 21-25 and 27-48 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 16, 17, 19, 25, 28, 32, and 34 have been amended. Claims 3, 20, 26 and 31 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 11, 13-15, 17, 19, 24-25, 27-28 and 32-33 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting. For all rejected claims, the applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer once the rejected claims are allowable over prior art.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 13-17, 19, 21-23, 25, 28-30 and 34-40 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Brown (U.S. Patent 5,791,216) in view Manson et al (U.S. Patent 5,731,997). Independent claims 1, 19, 25 and 28 have been amended to recite, displaying each of the plurality of symbols on a map at the associated location in response to said request for information *regarding the geographic area*, wherein the plurality of geographic locations are street addresses and the plurality of values are price values. Brown teaches a map having a plurality of geographic areas. Brown teaches displaying the map of the geographic area *to request information regarding a geographic area*, not in response to requesting information regarding the geographic area. The user interface in Figure 13 of Brown shows a map with several regions so that the user can indicate the geographic area where the user would like to purchase a house. Based upon these selected geographic area, Brown *displays a list* 212 of homes for sale in the screen shown in Figure 14 (col. 7, line 48 to col. 8, line 5). Brown does not teach displaying a map of a geographic area showing the geographic locations, or associating symbols with those locations. There is no motivation to add the symbols of Manson to the geographic locations of Brown, because Brown does not display the geographic locations on a map of the geographic area. Additionally, the geographic locations of Manson are not street addresses and the values are geographic attributes not

price values. Adding the features of Manson to the system of Brown does not meet the claim limitations of the present invention. Claims 1, 19, 25 and 28 are therefore patentable. Claims 2, 4-7, 13-17, 21-23, and 29-30 depend from patentable claims 1, 19, 25 and 28 and are patentable.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Brown in view Manson et al further in view of DeLorme (U.S. Patent 5,559,707). Claim 18 recites, “wherein each of the plurality of values is associated with a street address, said method further including the steps of associating each of the plurality of values with a latitude and longitude and displaying each of the symbols on the map based upon the associated longitude and latitude.” If the Examiner’s modification of the Brown interface were further modified to permit the input of a street address, there would still be no map as the information in Brown is displayed in a list and the list would only include one house. Additionally, the values in Manson are still associated with geographic attributes not price values. Therefore, there would be no motivation for this proposed modification by the Examiner.

Claims 8-10, 24, 27, 32-33, and 41-45 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Brown in view Manson et al further in view of Tachibana et al (U.S. Patent 6,219,053). The Examiner admits that Brown and Manson do not teach associating each of a plurality of symbols with a different range of values. Additionally, Tachibana also does not disclose associating different *ranges of values* with different symbols. The different symbols in Tachibana are each associated with different hierarchical levels in a network - - there is no “range of values”. Therefore, claims 8-10 are independently patentable. Additionally, claims 8-10 depend from patentable claim 1 and are therefore patentable.

Claims 41 and 45 recite, displaying the plurality of symbols on a map at the associated location in response to said request for information *regarding the geographic area*. As explained

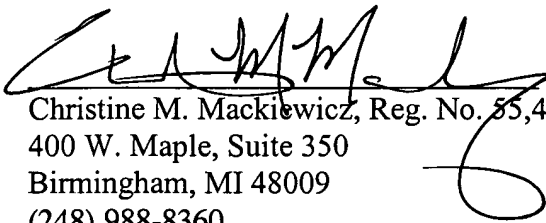
above, Brown teaches displaying the map of the geographic area *to request information regarding a geographic area*, not in response to requesting information regarding the geographic area.

Further claims 41 and 45 recite, “each of the plurality of symbols having first visually identifying characteristic indicating one of a plurality of ranges of the values and a second visually identifying characteristic indicating a *subrange within its associated range*.” As indicated above Tachibana does not indicate a “range of values.” Even if it is assumed that each hierarchy included a “range of values” a subdivision of a hierarchy is not disclosed, or even possible, in order to obtain a subrange as claimed by the applicant. Tachibana does not disclose a first characteristic associated with a hierarchy and a second characteristic associated with a subrange of that hierarchy. Claims 41 and 45 are therefore patentable. Claims 42-44 and 46-48 depend from patentable claim 41 and 45 and are therefore patentable.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$620 for a two-month extension of time (\$225) and the request for continued examination fee (\$395) to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS


Christine M. Mackiewicz, Reg. No. 55,418
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: November 2, 2005